

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 1, as follows, with a marked-up copy of the amended claim being included in the Appendix attached to this reply:

1. (Twice Amended) A method of manufacturing a ceramic composite, the method comprising:

preparing at least two ceramic bodies to be bonded together, each of the at least two ceramic bodies having a bonding surface;

preparing a slurry in which primary particles of a bonding ceramic are dispersed, said slurry being synthesized by merely adding a phosphoric compound to a calcium compound slurry;

applying the slurry to the bonding surface of at least one of the ceramic bodies to be bonded; and

sintering the ceramic bodies between which the slurry has been interposed to obtain fusing and growing of the primary particles of a bonding ceramic in the slurry during the sintering and bonding of the at least two ceramic bodies together.

Please add claim 19, as follows:

19. (Amended) A method of manufacturing a ceramic composite, the method comprising:
preparing at least two ceramic bodies to be bonded together, each of the at least two ceramic bodies having a bonding surface;

preparing a slurry in which primary particles of a bonding ceramic are dispersed in the absence of organic components;

applying the slurry to the bonding surface of at least one of the ceramic bodies to be bonded;

and

sintering the ceramic bodies between which the slurry has been interposed to obtain fusing and growing of the primary particles of a bonding ceramic in the slurry during the sintering and bonding of the at least two ceramic bodies together.

REMARKS

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1 and 19 will be amended, whereby claims 1-19 will remain pending. Claims 1 and 19 are independent claims.

The amendment to claims 1 and 19 is in conformance with the disclosure in the originally filed application, such as at page 12, lines 8-12, and does not include new matter.

Entry of this amendment after final rejection is appropriate, because the amendment seeks to reduce the issues for appeal while seeking to advance the application to allowance. Moreover, the amendment is in conformance with Applicants' previously submitted arguments for patentability.

Reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Response To Rejections Based Upon Prior Art

The following rejections are set forth in the Official Action:

(a) Claims 1-8 and 11-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim et al. (hereinafter Kim), U.S. Patent No. 5,645,596, in view of Ogawa et al. (hereinafter "Ogawa"), U.S. Patent No. 5,030,611.

(b) Claims 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim,